

REMARKS

This is in response to the Office Action of March 24, 2009. Applicants gratefully acknowledge the Examiner's indication of allowable subject matter in this application. Claims 21, 22, 24, and 29 are pending in this application. Claim 21 is amended to specify that the variable "B" in the formula is one or more of Zr, Ti, Si, Nb, and Ta, based upon such disclosure as that in the specification from line 16 on page 10 through line 9 on page 11 ("lower thermal conductivity can be achieved by replacing the Nb site with ... Zr to bring to a solid solution"). Claims 22 and 24 are amended to eliminate the embodiments in which the variable "x" in the formulas = 2. No new matter is introduced by this Amendment.

Formal rejections

Claims 21, 22, and 24 were rejected under the second paragraph of 35 U.S.C. § 112 as failing to define the invention properly. Claim 21 was said to be indefinite since the definition of the variable "B" did not allow for mixtures and did not list zirconium as an embodiment. Claims 22 and 24 were said to be indefinite since when the variable "x" is equal to 2, the embodiments of the formula were not in accordance with the preamble of the claims. It is respectfully submitted that the foregoing amendments of the claims overcome the indefiniteness rejections stated in the outstanding Office Action.

Conclusion

The present application is now believed to be in condition for allowance. Should there be any outstanding matters that need to be resolved in the present application, the Examiner is

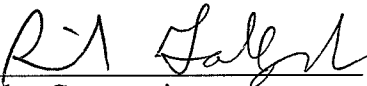
Application No.: 10/550,097

Docket No.: 4914-0103PUS1

respectfully requested to contact Richard Gallagher (Reg. No. 28,781) at the telephone number of the undersigned below.

Dated: June 24, 2009

Respectfully submitted,

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